

the State of Florida which met in 1838 to form the diocese of Florida; and it has always been an integral part of life in St. Augustine, America's oldest city.

Trinity has met the worship needs of many thousands of people over the last 175 years. In addition, the parish has shown a continuing commitment to serving the community at large. Trinity supports St. Gerard House, which cares for unmarried pregnant women; and provides meeting space for various groups, including alcoholics anonymous. The church also helped to create St. Francis House, a facility which provides assistance to the poor and to transients who pass through St. Augustine. In addition, Trinity's Early Learning Center provides a nurturing and educational environment for some of the community's youngest residents.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the members of Trinity Church on reaching this significant milestone, and in thanking them for their devotion to spreading the word of God and serving others.

RETIREMENT COMMENDATION OF RICKY N. RIGGINS

HON. DICK CHRYSLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chief Ricky N. Riggins.

Chief Ricky N. Riggins was born in Oxnard, CA, on June 29, 1954. He graduated from Nordhoff High School in June, 1972, and attended Ventura Junior College for one semester before joining the U.S. Navy on February 5, 1973. His illustrious 24-year career has led Chief Riggins to various assignments after completing signalman training in San Diego.

While on active duty, Chief Riggins attended Central Texas College. He graduated in August of 1994, receiving an associates degree in general studies. Signalman Chief Petty Officer Riggins plans to attend Michigan State University to complete his masters degree after he retires.

Chief Riggins has served his last 2 years as the leading chief signalman on board the U.S.S. *Germantown* (LSD-42), responsible for the welfare and training of all assigned personnel in the communications division as well as the operations department. Chief Riggins is married to Pantipa Hartke of Korat, Thailand. They have four children: First, Ricky, Jeremy, and Jamie, as well as two grandchildren, Ricky and Jeremy, Jr.

Chief Riggins has had significant community involvement. He was active in his church as a deacon, a lay leader, as a member of his church council youth ministries committee, and as church council secretary. Chief Riggins served as a Red Cross volunteer providing service to military families, and as a contact person for military service members and their families through the Red Cross Service to Military Families. With over 500 hours contributed in the State of Michigan and around the world, Rick was selected as the SMF Volunteer in the Spotlight for the month of October 1993.

Rick has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America in Lansing, MI, and abroad in Japan's Far East Council. During his reassignment to Sasebo, Japan, for the last 2 years, Chief Rig-

gins has served as the unit commissioner for Troop and Pack 76 as a member of the Far East Council. His accomplishments and awards are truly awe-inspiring, and I thank Chief Riggins for his contributions to our society not only as a Member of Congress, but as a citizen of Michigan, the United States, and the world.

HONORING CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AS 1996 TROPHY WIN- NER OF ROBERT W. CAREY QUALITY AWARD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Calverton National Cemetery of Calverton, NY, for being recognized as this year's Robert W. Carey Quality Award winner.

The Robert W. Carey Quality Award is an annual award presented by the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs to recognize organizations within the Department which have implemented quality management in an exemplary manner, resulting in high quality products and services while promoting the effective use of taxpayer dollars. Named in memory of Robert W. Carey, Director of the Veterans Administration Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia, this award is the highest and most prestigious quality award presented to an organization by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It seeks to promote quality management awareness and implementation throughout the Department and to provide a model against which organizations can assess their quality transformation efforts and organizational effectiveness in delivering services. This award is used as an internal assessment tool and supports the Secretary's Performance Agreement with the President.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Calverton National Cemetery for their outstanding achievement and well-deserved honors.

THE RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Rural Law Enforcement Act of 1996. This bill recognizes that in spite of recent efforts to provide adequate funding and resources for law enforcement departments around our Nation, a significant segment within this population continues to be underserved. I am speaking about those departments that serve rural areas.

One-third of all Americans live in nonurban areas and 90 percent of all law enforcement agencies serve populations of fewer than 25,000 residents; 75 percent of all law enforcement agencies serve a population of fewer than 10,000 residents; 85 percent of police departments in America have 10 or less officers on the force. Yet statistics show that

fewer than 200 cities get the lion's share of Federal funding for combating crime. This would not be problematic but for the fact that while the national crime index for violent crime has been on a steady decline over the past 5 years, rural violent crime has increased over 35 percent from 1985 to 1995. It is in response to this trend along with the pleas for increased resources that I have heard from rural law enforcement agencies in my district that I introduce this legislation.

This bill seeks to enhance the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement and charges this Center to provide, among other things, the following resources for rural law enforcement agencies nationwide:

Training of law enforcement supervisors and personnel who serve in rural communities on how best to address those criminal issues that are unique to their rural areas, taking into consideration the limited resources available to these departments.

Funding for grants and contracts for Federal, State, and local units of government; as well as for public and private agencies, educational institutions, organizations, and individuals; to work together effectively in combating crime in rural areas.

The establishment of a clearinghouse and information center on criminal justice and law enforcement to provide a communications network to link rural agency heads to one another, around the country.

Consulting assistance to criminal justice agencies with respect to problem solving, training, and community outreach in rural law enforcement jurisdiction.

I have been in touch with law enforcement officials and community leaders in my home State of Maine regarding this legislation. From the community response coordinator for a domestic violence program in Bangor, to the U.S. marshal of Maine, to the sheriff of rural Aroostook County, to the former chief of police of Presque Isle, I have heard unanimous support for this legislation. The reasons for their support were unanimous as well—there are just not enough resources currently available for rural law enforcement to adequately address the needs of the populations they serve.

Providing public safety is a crucial part of the infrastructure that makes up our communities; allowing effective and impartial enforcement of the law is one of the most important functions of the Government. We look to law enforcement officials to adequately address issues of crime and violence in our communities, to know how to quickly assess situations and respond appropriately, and to reach out to other individuals and services in the community in efforts to learn about their concerns and about the resources available within their programs. I believe that this bill will make these goals into realities for our rural law enforcement agencies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PUERTO RICO

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Congress took dramatic action last month in the Small Business Job Protection Act